

REMARKS

Claims 11 and 169-208 are pending and subject to examination.

The Applicants thank Examiners Zeman and Smith for the courtesy of the telephone conference of May 31, 2005. The Applicants discussed the two grounds for rejection raised in the Office Action dated March 26, 2004: 1) an indefiniteness rejection regarding "which specific 'side chain'" is being referred to, and 2) written description rejection regarding the term "core domain."

Indefiniteness rejection of claims 11, 191, and 209 regarding "which specific 'side chain'"

During the telephonic conference, the claim amendments entered above were proposed. The claim now refers to "determining if an acetylated amino acid side chain in the substrate is deacetylated," language that includes, for example, determining if at least one or more than one acetylated amino acid side chain is deacetylated. As the Applicants understand it, the Examiners took the position that the amendment resolves the indefiniteness issues raised in the Office Action dated March 26, 2004. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the indefiniteness rejection applied to claims 11 and 191 may be withdrawn.

Written Description rejection of claim 209

Claim 209 was rejected for lack of written description. Although the Applicants do not accede to the rejection made in the Office Action, claim 209 and claims dependent therefrom have been cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution, e.g., in 09/735,786 or in other pending or future applications, including ones that claim priority to this application.

The Applicants request that all claims be examined in view of the amendment to the claims. The Examiner is also referred to the Applicants' Response mailed September 27, 2004 for the Applicant's remarks regarding any remaining rejections. The Examiner is also urged to call the undersigned if a telephonic conference would expedite the prosecution or allowance of this application.

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Serial No. : 09/461,580
Filed : December 15, 1999
Page : 9 of 9

Attorney's Docket No.: 13407-016001 / MIT 8503

The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is expeditiously requested. The Applicants do not concede any positions of the Examiner that are not expressly addressed above, nor do the Applicants concede that there are not other good reasons for patentability of the presented claims or other claims. All amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice and disclaimer and may be made for reasons not explicitly stated or for reasons in addition to ones stated.

Please apply any other charge or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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